



San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency **Citizens' Advisory Council**

MINUTES • Meeting Date: June 5, 2025

REGULAR MEETING

5:30 pm

1 South Van Ness Avenue, 7th Floor
Room 7080, Union Square Conference Room

SFMTA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Aaron Leifer, Chair
Chris Arvin, Vice-Chair
Sascha Bittner
Jonathan Bünemann
Queena Chen
Steve Cornell
John Lisovsky
Eliza Panike
Yensing Sihapanya
Connor Skelly
Susan Vaughan
Frank Zepeda

COUNCIL LIAISON

Christine Silva

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Keka Robinson-Lugman



ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Leifer called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

CAC members present at Roll Call: Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Jonathan Bünemann, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly, and Susan Vaughan

CAC members absent at Roll Call: Queena Chen and Eliza Panike

CAC members absent with notification: Frank Zepeda

3. Announcement of prohibition of sound-producing devices during the meeting.

CAC Secretary Robinson-Luqman made the announcement.

4. Approval of Minutes:

No public comment.

On motion to approve the minutes of May 1, 2025:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Jonathan Bünemann, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly, and Susan Vaughan

ABSENT – Queena Chen, Eliza Panike, and Frank Zepeda

5. Report of the Chair (For discussion only)

Chair Leifer discussed upcoming budget presentations at the CAC and wished Council member Yensing Sihapanya well, as this was her last meeting.

6. Public Comment

No public comment.



REGULAR CALENDAR

7. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding FY25 & FY26 Budget Overview. (Bree Mawhorter, Chief Financial Officer. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

Fisher Zhu presented the item.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brad McMillan expressed frustration with the high cost of parking at the 5th and Mission Street garage, attributing low parking use to both excessive fees and the visible presence of drug use and homelessness downtown, which he believes deters visitors. He criticized the Department of Public Health and Mayor Lurie for not effectively addressing the issue, despite a declared state of emergency. Additionally, the Mr. McMillan objected to costly street closures implemented for Vision Zero, claiming they have not reduced traffic fatalities and have instead caused inconvenience and wasted public funds.

Benjamin Garcia expressed concern about the significant degradation of public assets, noting that the \$1.6 billion increase in backlog over two years far exceeds the operational budget. He questioned whether there's any realistic hope for achieving an operational surplus that could support capital improvements. Garcia also encouraged activating the SFMTA legislative program to support ridership-focused bills, specifically mentioning SB79.

Edward Mason questioned whether the promised reliability of Siemens rail cars—projected at 20,000 miles between failures—has led to reduced maintenance staffing and costs. He emphasized the need for regular process improvements, transparency in procurement, and organizational clarity through tools like headcount charts. Mr. Mason proposed monetizing corporate commuter bus operations through a medallion system similar to taxis, arguing that current policies miss a significant revenue opportunity despite likely resistance from powerful regional interest groups.

8. Council Member Requests Information and Agenda Item Requests. (For discussion only)

Aaron Leifer asked how does the SFMTA's farebox recovery compare to similar metro systems.

Aaron Leifer asked what the labor cost looks like in dollars per group versus FTE per group.

Aaron Leifer requested a presentation on the LRV replacement project and how the siemens cars are holding up.



ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KARLUGMAN'.

Keka Robinson-Lugman
SFMTA CAC – Secretary

Next meeting (special): Thursday, July 10th at 5:30pm | Union Square Conference Room